

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2464
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012
CLEARANCE TO RAILWAY LINE
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Committee headed by Additional Director General of Forests (ADG) has submitted its study report to Central Empowered Committee in Supreme Court regarding Hubli-Ankola new Railway line in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has submitted its affidavit on the basis of this ADG report in Supreme Court;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (f) A committee headed by Additional Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation) submitted a report of the study on the proposed Hubli Ankola Railway Line to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).

The Committee recommended that the matter is now before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India through Central Empowered Committee in IA No. 952 by Parisara Samrakshana Kendra & others versus Union of India & others. The Central Empowered Committee during hearing of this case on 13.9.2006 has advised the Ministry not to issue any permission in this case till a final report is filed by CEC before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Hence the Committee cannot make any recommendation on this case. The CEC has also instructed the railway authorities to stop the work even on non-forest land. However, field visit by the Committee has brought out the perspective from both conservation as well as development angle. The Committee suggested the State Forest Department and the Chief Secretary to make their submission before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and also before the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Since the Ministry has already rejected this case earlier, any further action in the light of the Committee's report can be considered by the MoEF only after a decision from the Hon'ble Supreme Court is received in the instant case. A copy of the said report has been sent by the MoEF to the Central Empowered Committee.